IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 14 with the following paragraph:

-- A traditional network streaming system is illustrated in **Figure 1**. As shown, one or more clients 150, 160, configured with streaming application software such as RealPlayer ® from RealNetworks® or Windows Media® Player from Microsoft® Corporation, communicate with one or more streaming servers 110, 111, . . . N, over a network 100 (e.g., the Internet). The group of streaming servers 110, 111, . . . N, are located together at a point of presence ("POP") site 130. Each of the streaming servers 110, 111, . . . N, may store a copy of the same streaming data or, alternatively, may store different streaming data, depending on the configuration at the POP site 130. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 1 with the following paragraph:

-- In operation, when a client 150 requests a particular streaming file from a server at the POP site 120, the request is received by a load balancer module [[120]] 130, which routes the request to an appropriate streaming server 111. Which server is "appropriate" may depend on where the requested file is stored, the load on each server 110, 111, . . . N, and/or the type of streaming file requested by the client (e.g., Windows Media format or RealPlayer format). Once the file has been identified by the load balancer 120 on an appropriate server – server 111 in the illustrated example – it is streamed to the requesting client 150 (represented by stream 140) through the network 100. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 3 with the following paragraph:

-- The servers located at the data centers 220-222 and POPs 230-234; 240-245 may communicate with one another and with end users [[150]] 250 using a variety of communication channels, including, for example, Digital Signal ("DS") channels (e.g., DS-3/T-3, DS-1/T1), Synchronous Optical Network ("SONET") channels (e.g., OC-3/STS-3), Integrated Services Digital Network ("ISDN") channels, Digital Subscriber Line ("DSL") channels, cable modem channels and a variety of wireless communication channels including satellite broadcast and cellular. --

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Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 15 with the following paragraph:

-- Embodiments of a system configured to stream live and on-demand audio/video content will now be described with respect to **Figures 4** and **5**. As shown in **Figure 4**, one embodiment receives and processes incoming audio/video content from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, live or recorded signals 401 broadcast over satellite links 410; live signals 402 provided via video conferencing systems 411; and/or live or recorded signals 403 transmitted over dedicated Internet Protocol ("IP") links 412. It should be noted, however, that [[a]] various other network protocols (i.e., other than IP) may be employed while still complying with the underlying principles of the invention. In one embodiment, each of the modules illustrated in **Figure 4** reside at a data center 220. --

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Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 10 with the following paragraph:

-- The SAM module 420 will handle incoming signals differently based on whether the signals have already been encoded (e.g., by the content providers) and/or based on whether the signals are comprised of "live" or "on demand" content. For example, if a signal has not already been encoded by a content provider (e.g., the signal may be received at the data center 220 in an analog format or in a non-streaming digital format), the SAM module 420 will direct the signal to one or more streaming encoder modules [[1430]] 430, which will encode the stream in a specified digital streaming format (e.g., Windows Media® format, Real G2™ format, . . . etc). --

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 8 with the following paragraph:

-- As new audio/video streaming content is added to the content storage devices 431, the SAM module 420 causes a storage database 430 to be updated accordingly (e.g., via a content delivery subsystem). The storage database 430 in one embodiment is a distributed database which tracks all network content as it is distributed and stored at various POP sites throughout the network. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 9 with the following paragraph:

-- As illustrated in **Figure 6**, in one embodiment, one or more of the leaf splitters (e.g., leaf splitter 631) are configured as backups to the primary root splitter 630. In this embodiment, the health of the root splitter is continually monitored by a monitoring subsystem which may reside on the load balancer module 625, the

redirection subsystem [[625]] 610, or as a separate monitoring module and the data center and/or the POP site 620. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 15 with the following paragraph:

-- In one embodiment, the root splitter 630 is configured to provide an update to the monitoring subsystem at predetermined intervals. This may be accomplished by an agent 640 continually running on the root splitter ~~630and~~ 630 and configured to communicate with the monitoring subsystem. The periodic update in this embodiment acts as a "heartbeat" which indicates to the monitoring subsystem that the root splitter is operating within normal parameters. If the monitoring subsystem does not receive an update for one or more periods, it may determine that the root splitter has become inoperative and assign the backup root splitter 631 as the new primary root splitter. In one embodiment, the agent 641 running on the backup root splitter 631 performs the reconfiguration process. Alternatively, or in addition, the monitoring subsystem may actively poll the agent 640 running on the root splitter 630 to verify that the root splitter 630 is operating reliably.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 1 with the following paragraph:

-- At 725, a root splitter failure is detected by the monitoring subsystem (e.g., via one or more of the failure detection techniques described above). As a result, the monitoring subsystem directs the backup root splitter 631 (e.g., via the backup agent 641) to reconfigure itself as the new primary root splitter 630. In addition, the monitoring subsystem and/or the backup agent 641 directs the load balancer 625 to remove the

A10 backup root splitter 631 from the group of leaf splitters 631-635 monitored by the load balancer module 625 (at 730). --